THE GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE.

STATE OF NEW YORE, EXECUTIVE CHAMBER, ALBANY, Jan. 1, 1884.

STATE OF NEW YORK EXECUTIVE CHAMBER,

To the Legislature:

In transmitting a statement of the condition of the State, and recommending such matters for legislative action as are deemed expedient. I believe it to be entirely proper at the
outset to direct attention to the fact that the
growth and progressof the State in every direction and the needs of the people call for patient
and intelligent setion on the part of their representatives in the Legislature. Every one
who has assumed any share of responsibility in
this oranch of the dovernment should enter
upen the discharge of his duties fully appreciating his trust, and with an unwavering determonation to faithfully serve the State.

It is suggested that frequent and unnecessary
recesses, taken during the session of the Legisature, not only result in a great waste of time,
but, by interruption of thought and effort, tend
to leone, careless, and ill-nivised legislative
setion.

Another evil which has a most pernicious in-

out by interruption of thought and effort, tend to leose, careices, and ill-advised legislative action.

Another evil which has a most permicious influence on legislation is the introduction and consideration of bills purely local in their character, affecting only special interests, and which ought not upon any pretext to be permitted to encumber the statutes of the State. Every consideration of expediency, as well as the language and evident intent of the Consilution, dictate the exclusion of such matters from legislative consideration. The powers of locards of Supervisors and other local authorities have been enlarged for the express purpose of permitting them to deal intelligently and properly with such subjects. But, notwithstanding this, bills are introduced authoriting the building and repairing of bridges and highways, the erection of engine houses and soldlers menuments, the establishment of libraries, the regulation or purchase of cemeteries, and other things of a like nature. In many cases no botter excuse exists for the presentation of such bills than the dignity and force which are supposed to be gained for their objects by legal anactment, the saving of expense and thuble to those interested in their purposes and the legislators having them in charge. Their consideration retards the business of the session, and occupies time which should be devoted to better purposes. And this is not the worst result that may follow in their train. Such measures, there is ground to suspect, are frequently made the means of securing by a promise of nul in their passage at bad and improvident shoule in the closing hours of the session gives opportunity in the haste and confusion which and up the confusion which and one of the closing fours of the session gives opportunity in the haste and confusion which

The crewling of a large amount of business into the closing hours of the session gives opportunity in the hasta and confusion which sause for the passage of bad and improvident laws, perhaps to the exclusion of measures of importance and value.

The postponement of legislation until the last of the session also results in leaving a large number of bills in the hands of the Governor at the time of final adjournment. By the terms of the Constitution such bills cannot become laws unless they are approved by the Executive within thirty days after the adjournment; there is no opportunity for the Legislature to review the disapproval of the Governor, and he has the absolute power to determine which shall become laws and which shall fail. This arbitrary Executive control of legislation should be guarded against by submitting the same to the Governor, as far as possible, in time to permit the Legislature to review his action thereon if unfavorable.

At the time of the adjournment of the last assion 357 bills had been signed by the Governor, and 249 remained subject to his action.

FINANCES.

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FINANCES.

The total debt of the State on the 30th of September last, after deducting the amount in the sinking fund to meet the same, was \$5,978,301.81, being a reduction of debt during the year of \$497.054.49. This debt, with the exception of a balance of \$5,000 of the bounty debt which remains unclaimed and \$122.694.87, the amount necessary to yield at six per cent, interest the sum required to pay the annualities to Indians, consists of the stock of the State issued for canal construction, bearing six per cent, interest the sum required to, bearing six per cent, interest and redeemable in the years 1887, 1891, 1892, and 1893.

The statement of the condition of the financial department of the State Government, for the details of which you are referred to the annual report of the Comptroller, shows sufficient funds in the trensury to meet all obligations, and an available surplus at the beginning of the present liseal year of \$1,249,567.96. This surplus arises from the voto by the Governor of items of appropriation after the adoption of the tax levy, the excess of receipts from various sources over estimates, and unexpended balances of appropriations.

The amount received by the Treasurer from taxes on corporations during the year was \$1,-935,179,31, being an increase over the preceding year of \$395,495.04; but of this amount \$331,183,75 was on account of taxes due in 1880 and paid under recent decisions of the courts. In consequence of the increase in valuation of the taxable property of the State, the tax rate of three and one-quarter mills on each dollar, fixed by the last Lexislature, will raise \$9,334,863,31, an amount considerably in excess of the actual needs of Government. The causes which contributed to slightly increase the rate of taxation for the present year were the adoption of the property of the State, the tax pensors of the actual needs of Government. The causes which contributed to slightly increase th

servance of due care in the appropriation of public funds by the present Legislature, and the exercise of such economy as sound public colley dictates, will reduce the tax levy for the coming year to a point which has not been reached in twenty-five years, and effect a re-duction of more than \$3,000,000 from the amount raised by direct taxation last year.

TAXATION.

TAXATION.

The subject of taxation still remains a vexed question; and the injustice and discrimination apparent in our laws on this subject, as well as the rethods of their execution, call londy for relief. There is no object so worthy of the care and attention of the Legislature as this. Strict economy in the management of State affairs, by their agents, should furnish the people a good Government at the least possible cost. This is common honesty. But no see to it that this cost is fairly and justly distributed, and the burden equally borne by those who have no praceful redress if the State is unjust, is the nest attribute of sovereignty and the highest duty to the citizen. The recognition of this duty characterizes a beneficent Government but its repudiation marks the oppression of tyrannical power. The taxpayer need not writtle high surden is greater than he can bear for just cause of complaint. However small his lax, he may reasonably protest if it represents more than his share of the public burden and the State neglects all effort to apply a remedy. The tendancy of our prosperity is in the direction of the accumulation of immense fortunes, largely invested in personal property and yet its aggregate valuation, as fixed for the purpose of taxation, as constantly decreased, while that of real estate is increased. For the year 1882, the valuation of personal property subject to taxation was determined at \$35.02.189, and real estate is increased. For the year 1882, the valuation of personal property subject to taxation was determined at \$35.02.189, and real estate is increased. For the year 1882, the valuation of personal property subject to taxation was determined at \$35.02.189, and real estate at \$2.432.661.379. In 1883 the assessed valuation of personal property was fixed for the purpose of its property the indebtedness of its pos-

in 1883 the assessed valuation of personal property was fixed at \$315,039,035, and real center \$2,257,218,249.

The present law permits, in the case of personal property, the indebtedness of its possessor to be deducted from its value, and allows no such deduction in favor of real estate, though it be represented by a mortgage, which is a specific lien upon such real estate. Personal property, in need more than any other of the protection of the Government, when discovered, escapes taxation to the extent of its covered, escapes taxation to the extent of its covered escapes though such indebtedness, though such indebtedness is based upon the ordinary credit in the transaction of business, or is fletiflous and manufactured for the temporary purpose of evading taxation. But real property, the existence of which cannot be concealed, is, in conceptation of the law taxed according to its full valuation, though the encumbrance upon it easily divests the owner of his title, though the interest and perhaps part of the principal must, as well as the tax, annually be met, and though, if sold, the amount due upon this iten must always be deducted from any sum agreed upon as the urice of the land.

This statement does not necessarily lend to a deduction of the amount of any encumbrance upon real estate from its valuation for the purpose of taxation; but it does suggest that both real and personal property should be placed upon the same footing by abelishing in all cases any deduction for debts. This amendment, with some others regulating the manner in which local assessors should perform their duties, would de much toward ridding our present system of its innerfections.

If measures more radical in their nature, having for their object the exaction of taxes which are justly due, should be deem

THE CANALS. An analysis of the expenditures by the Superintendent of Public Works shows that of the aggregate cost of renairs and maintenance of the canals for the year ending Sept. 30, 1883, the sum of \$20,535,34 was expended during the four months from Oct. 1, 1882, to Feb. 1, 1883, and \$49,319,36 for the remainder of the year under the administration of the present butterintendent. This latter period comprised all but two months of the season of navigation. For the fiscal year which begins Oct. 1, 1884,

provision must be made by tax to meet the cost of maintenance, which is estimated at \$659,000, in addition to the required contribution of \$450,000 to the canal debt sinking fund, and \$500,310 for interest on the canal debt. This total of \$4,000,310 can be met by a tax of fifty-seven one hundredths of a milt, the canal tax for the current year being one and forty-seven thousandths mile.

Navigation during the year has been uninterrupted from the opening until the close of the canals with but two exceptions of a few hours' duration. The standard depth of water has been fully maintained, and the general good navigable condition of the canals is evidenced by the amount of tonnage transported and the regularity and speed with which boats have made their trips.

The exhibit of the canal business for the season just closed, in my judgment, fully justifies the policy adopted by the people of relieving this commerce of the burden of toils. It was unfortunate that in the first year of free canals, the one when most attention would be given the subject and most interest manifested in its operation, the season of navigation should be very materially shortened by a hard opening and early closing on account of the weather. But notwithstanding the loss of thirty-three days, as compared with the year previous, of alout one-seventh of the average period of navigation, the tonnage for the year was 5,775,631 tons.

Remarkable proof of the increased commerce attracted to these waterways by the abouttion of toils is found in the fact that the shipments of grain from Buildalo by canal this year aggregated 41,350,916 bushels, against 29,430,688 bushels last year, and the statistics which will be iransmitted by the Superintendent of Public Works will exhibit like increase in the other freights which comprise the great bulk of the canal traffic.

These figures assure those interested in canal navigation that the liberal policy adopted by the State will make reasonably certain a continuance of employment and opportunities for the capit

tions as to add materially to its business and wealth.

Pursuant to a policy which for a number of years seems to have prevailed, no improvements have been made on the canais, and expenditures have in the main, been limited to the cost of superintendence, and such repairs as were absolutely necessary to preserve mavigation. That the banks, brism and structures are now in sufficiently good condition for present purposes I have no doubt. But I agree with the Superintendent of Public Works that it is not wise to rely whelly upon a continuance of the good fortune which has so long attended the canais; and, without hesitation, I concur in his proposition to take measures to inaugurate a system of such constant and gradual repairs as ordinary prudence demands.

PUBLIC EDUCATION.

PUBLIC EDUCATION.

The Superintendent of Public Instruction furnishes the following statement concerning the public schools for the year ending Sopt. 30, 1883:

Number of teachers employed during legal term of sethool.

Number of teachers employed during any portion of the year.

Number of children attending public school Number attending normal schools.

Number titerding normal schools. 21,122 umber of volumes in school district li-braries. 701.673 umber of persons in the State between the ages of 5 and 21. 1.681,500

Number of persons in the State between the ages of 5 and 21.

There seems to have been for a number of years a steady decrease in the number of books contained in school district libraries. In 1880 the number reported was 1,286,336; in 1881, 707,155; in 1882, 705,812, and now 701,675. If it is proposed to continue the advantage of these libraries, it is quite evident that there should be a change in the extent and manner of their supply or in the means of their preservation.

The Regents of the University report that there are twenty-four literary and thirteen modical colleges connected with the University of the State. Of these, two have been chartered during the past year, to wit, Canisius College of Buffalo and Niagara University, at Suspension Bridge.

College of Buffalo and Niagara University, at Suspension Bridge.
There are under the visitation of the Regents 277 academies and academical departments of Union schools, comprising about 36,000 scholars and 1,400 teachers.
The instruction of common school teachers has been carried on during the past year in ninety-five academical institutions, in which 1,611 scholars have been trained. These classes are under the care of an inspector appointed by the Regents.
The removal of the library building has necessitated the arrangement of the State Library in temporary quarters in the new Capitol.
Arrangements for the removal of the State Museum to the State Hall as soon as it is vacated have been made. The printing of the Paleontology, allowed by the last Legislature, has been resumed by the Regents.

Eight new banks of discount were organized during the year, and one failed, leaving the total number eighty-four, the condition of which, on the first day of October, 1883, was reported as follows:

ported as follows:	
	Increase during
Resources	\$38,152,003 2 (66,00) 1,488,714 31,860,663
Of the increase in capital, \$1.30 result of the conversion of bar national to the State system. On the first day of July last, 127 s reported to the Superintendent of Department, but of this number act no business and have but a istence. During the year one ne	avings banks the Banking twelve trans- nominal ex- w savings in-

and prudently conducted have acquired a better place in the confidence of the community.

A remarkable saving in expense has been effected in this department during the past year under the present administration.

On the 30th day of April, 1833, there were thirty clerks employed in the department, whose annual salaries amounted in the aggregate to \$48,630, together with an attorney at a salary of \$4,800, while at the close of the fiscal year. Sept. 30, there were but seventeen clerks employed, at an aggregate annual expense of \$28,150, and the services of the attorney had been dispensed with as unnecessary. The Superintendent feels confident of his ability to still further reduce these expenses without, in any manner, diminishing the efficiency of the department. As a result of this reduction, the fire, marine, and life insurance companies, and the exoperative societies organized under the laws of this State, have been notified that no fees, taxes, or dues will be imposed upon them this year by the department, the statutory fees collected from the companies of other States and countries being sufficient for its maintestance.

NATIONAL GUARD.

NATIONAL GUARD.

and countries being sufficient for its maintesame.

NATIONAL GUAED.

The organization and efficiency of the military department of the State are in a very satisinctory condition. The National Guard consists of four divisions, eight brigades, seven
battalions of artillery. Biteen regiments, one
battalions of artillery. Biteen regiments, one
battalions and forty separate companies. The
whole number of officers and enlisted men on
the 30th of September, 1883, was 11,568, notwithstanding that under the provisions of the
new Military code all regimental bands, argregating 55 in embers, have been dropped from
the rois, and many enlisted men, physically incapable of doing military duty, have been dischinged from the service.

During the last year the Forty-second Senarate Company, located at Syracuse, has been
formally disbanded, and one new company has
been organized in Elmira.

The latest reports show that recruiting is
stendily progressing. If the existing organizations should be filled to the maximum
strength allowed, the aggregate of officers and
men would exceed 18,000, while the whole
number permitted by the code is limited to
15,000. For this reason, and in view of the fact
that the funds at the disposal of the department are necessary for present wants, many
applications for the formation of now companies and the readmission of organizations
here tolore disbanded have been refused.

The Military Code passed by the last Legislature preserted service uniforms to be furnisled by the State to the National Guard. So
far as they have been issued they have proved
serviceable. They are neat in appearance and
acceptable to the troops. But the lack of an
appropriation for that purpose has readered it
impossible to furnish the new uniforms, Coparatical contents the new uniform to those yet
to a few of the most needy organizations. I
recommend that the present Legislature make
provision to furnish the new uniform seed the
unprovided for, in the belief that after the
Guard is once fully equip

maintenance in this respect will be less than under the previous system.

The State Camp of Instruction inauguarated by my predecessor in 1832 seemed productive of such good results that I ordered a similar camp in the summer of 1883. It was opened on the 16th day of June and continued to the 28th day of July. Six regiments and nine separate companies were in camp one week each. The number of the Guard thus allowed the advantage of this important feature of military instruction was 3.515, exceeding by more than one-third those in camp the provious year.

It is quite apparent that the policy which has reduced the number of the National Guard should be supplemented by every reasonable effort to make it reliable and efficient. Investigation and personal inspection have satisfied me that nothing tends more in that direction than the opportunities afforded by the Camp of Instruction.

The ground thus far occupied near Peekskill is admirably adapted to the purpose in every respect, and considerable money of the State has aiready been expended in litting it for use. It comprises about 100 acres, and is now held by the State under a lease which expires May 1, 1885, at an annual rent of \$1,000. This privilege is reserved to the State to purchase the property at any time before the expiration of the lease for the sum of \$13,000. This price is regarded as reasonable, and I recommend that the purchase be made by the State, with a view of permanently establishing the Camp of Instruction as an element of military education.

The last Legislature provided for the erection of an armory in each of the cities of New York, Brocklyn, and Troy, and in the village of Flushing.

Some amendments to the Military Code, which has been in operation since last April, are deemed desirable, and will at the proper time be submitted for the action of the Legislature.

STATE PRISONS. From a statement made by the Superintendent of State Prisons, it appears that on the 30th day of September, 1883, there were confined in Auburn Prison 882 convicts; in Sing 1462, and in Clinton 484, making a total of 2,828, being less than for a number of previous years. There were 144 inmates of the State Asylum for Insane Criminals, nine of whom were women.

The sarnings and expenditures of these prisons during the last fiscal year were as follows:

CHO GHEIMS THE THE				
AUR	URN PRISON.	Š		
Expenditures.		110.857 42		
Surplus			\$5,422	88
	ING SING.			
Expenditures		183,210 73		
Surplus			54,018	77
Total surplus			E510, 441	63
	CLISTON.			
Expenditures		844,542 BO 14 878 BO		
Deficiency	*******	********	50,335	
Balance surplus			\$0,100	22

Of the increase in capital, \$1,300,000 was the natural to converge to the same property with a superior control of the surface of the surface

expense of their maintenance added to the burden of the taxpayers.

CHARITABLE INSTITUTIONS. The following information is furnished by the State Board of Charities and the Com-missioner in Lunaey:

The value of the property held by the various charitable institutions on the 1st day of Octo-ber, 1883, was 142,935,380,04, of which \$35,415,-555,45 was in real estate, and \$7,519,804,59 in personal property.

The receipts of all these institutions for the year ending Sept. 30, 1883, were as follows:
State institutions

County and rity institutions

2,363,734,237

Incorporated benevolent institutions

7,157,002.15

Of this sum, \$719,753.99 was derived from the State, \$4.876,519.37 from cities and counties, and \$1.529,571.15 from legacies and donations. The expenditures during the year were as follows:

By State institutions.

By Sunty and city the flutions.

Total \$10,391,304 0s The number of Insane in the various institu-tions on the 36th day of Sentember, 1883, was 11,270, distributed as follows: 11,270, distributed as follows:
State Lunatic Asylum at Utea
Hudson liver State Hospital
state Homospathic Asylum
Buffalo State asylum
Wifard Asylum (chronic insare)
Bligchamion Asylum (chronic unsare)
Hughamion Asylum (chronic unsare)
Lyminishmutes and asylums
Lyminishmutes and asylums
Lyminishmutes and asylums
Lyminishmutes and asylums
Asylum for Insare Criminals
Asylum for Insare Enigrants

when a very season of the seas

tendent testified that he was entirely ignorant of the instances of crucity established by the testimony.

A system which permits this condition of things is evidently defective.

The time will never come when the humane sentiment of the people will approve the crucit treatment or the neglect of the unfortunate or even criminal inmates of these institutions; and their usefulness depends upon giving no occasion for the growth of a suspicious and unreasoning belief that their benevolent purposes are lost or perverted. That system of management is, therefore, manifestly best which most nearly satisfies the public that it is conducted with due regard to justice and forbearance.

Another and a more practical consideration is involved in this question.

The State annually appropriates from half to three-quarters of a million of dollars to the maintenance of these institutions, and those connected with the making or administration of the laws owe, as a duty to the taxpayers of the State, their best efforts to guard the expenditure of the money thus appropriated against extrawgance, and insure its advantageous application to the purposes for which it is intended.

An examination of some of the expenditures of these institutions and the cost of the maintenance of their inmates establishes the fact that their business management is seriously at faut.

A report made to the Comptroller by the agent appointed in 1878 to examine their finan-

teamee of their immates establishes the fact that their business management is seriously at fauit.

A report made to the Comptroller by the agent appointed in 1878 to examine their financian affaits and business administrations contains much valuable and starting information. By this report it appears that our State institutions commare very unfavorably in the cost of their maintenance with those of other States and countries. Confined to our own State, the result of the inquiry in this respect is no less striking. There is reported quite an important variation in the prices pand for the same kind of supplies and a great difference in the expense of supporting their immates. The cost of provisions and supplies is given for the support of each inmate in the year 1877 in twenty different lunatic asylams, three of which are located in this State and seventeen in other States and provinces. Of the seventeen in other States and storage of the seventeen in other states and states and seventeen in other states and states are seventeen in other states and states and states and seventeen in other states and states and states and seventeen in other states and states and states and seventeen in other states and provinces. Of the seventeen in the annual cost per capita in six institutions was between \$50 and \$50; in two between \$40 and \$40; in seven between \$50 and \$40; in one \$41.87, and in one \$10.174. In the three New York institutions this cost is reported at \$105.88, \$140.78 and \$157.22. It thus appears that the New York asylams are not only much more expensive than the others, but that among thomsolves their in a d

more expensive than the others, but that among themselves there is a difference between the highest and lowest rate of more than lifty percent.

The last report of the State Board of Charities contains a statement of the weekly percapita cost of maintaining the immates in several of our State institutions, which shows a variation scarcely less marked.

I cannot but believe that much that is defective and expensive in the present management of these institutions is attributable to divided responsibility and consequent loose and unbusiness-like methods. I fear that too much of these institutions is attributable to divided responsibility and consequent loose and unbusiness-like methods. I fear that too much of the time of superintendents, which should be devoted to the actual care and watch of those put in their charge, is spent in other occupations, which, though not necessarily foreign to the interests of the institutions, should not be included among their duties.

At every session of the Legislature, not only the Superintendent, but delegations from the local boards of managers, appear before the committees having the subject of appropriations in charge, asking for money to maintain their institutions, which, if heeded, they should receive without importunity. Appropriations are made for all manner of enhancement, repairs, afterations, and improvements, many of which are disapproved after Executive examination, which is unavoidably imperiest and may lead to injustice.

A suspicion may well be entertained that in the localities where these institutions are situate the privilege of furnishing the supplies and materials is granted from melives of friendifiness or a desire to patronize home trade, resulting in bargains disadvantageous to the institutions and the State.

In seeking to better the candition of affairs, we cannot fail to be reminded of the experience of the State in relation to prison management. For the maintenance of these institutions above their earnings, the sum of \$704, 379.85. By an amendment,

in February, 1877. On the 30th day of September following, or in less than nine months under the new management, the defleiency of expenditure was reduced to \$369,688.08. This deficiency steadily decreased until the 30th of September, 1881, when a surplus of \$364.35 was reported, which has annually increased, until at the close of the last year, it reached

September, 1831, when a surplus of \$564.35 was reported, which has annually increased, until at the close of the last year, it reached \$10.106.23.

There seems to be no good reason why similarly favorable results cannot be obtained by the application of a like system to the control and management of the business affairs of our charitable institutions. It accords with the plan adopted where large private interests are involved, it has the advantage of concentrated responsibility; the Legislature and the Excentive should, under such a system, be satisfactorily informed of the actual needs of the different institutions, and the necessary appropriations should be cheerfully made; the time of the superintendents could be devoted to their legitimate and proper duties; the detection and prevention of abuses and neglect could be reasonably exacted; a very large saving should be effected in the wholesale purchase of supplies of uniform grade for all the institutions, and the advantages consequent upon a correct application of business methods would be secured to the people of the State.

The change suggested contemplates the em-

State.
The change suggested contemplates the em-The chance suggested contemplates the employment of a lit person vasted with the supervision and control of these institutions, to whom a fair salary should be paid, and who should have no other business. He should absolutely be required to devote all his time to the performance of his duties.

The attention of the Legislature is earnestly called to this subject, in the hope that a better system may be adopted, with such careful consideration of detail and the necessary change in present laws as will secure the inauguration of a plan which shall be simple, efficient and well perfected.

which is uncalled for, inexcusable, and ought not to be permitted to continue.

Another fact appears in the evidence taken by the committee, which is not referred to in their report. The present incumbent of the health office testified that in the year-1880 ho paid between \$2.000 and \$10.000 as a voluntary contribution to the party of which he was a member for political purposes.

When, in addition to the facts above presented, the Legislature is reminded that notwithstanding the amount so collected appropriations are annually made from the State Treasury for the support of the Quarantine Department, the need of legislation on this subject will. I hope, be recognized.

It may be that, upon consideration, the fees which are now legitimately charged for services performed in this department will not be found undary burdensome, though some vessels now subjected to their payment might be relieved; but all fees and charges resting in the discretion of the officer, or exceed without authority, should be definitely fixed by law or prohibited.

In my judgment the Health Officer should be In my judgment the Health Officer should be

In my judgment the Health Officer should be attached to the quarantine establishment and be taid a fair sainry, which, as well as the salaries of the other parties in charge of the department, and the cost of maintaining the buildings and property of the State used in connection therewith, should be met by fees and charges collected for services performed, which fees and charges should be fixed at no higher rate than is necessary to meet such expresses.

The inauguration of such a system, it is be-leved, would insure an efficient administra-tion in this important department, relieve the taxpayers of the State from present burdens, and subserve the interests of the commerce of the port.

and subserve the interests of the commerce of the port.

HARBOR MASTERS.

In my last annual message the attention of the Legislature was called to the fact that the fees then collected by the Harbor Masters at the port of New York had been declared by the Supreme Court of the United States to be illegal, and that such fees were, notwithstanding, still collected under the guise of voluntary payments made for the services of these officers. It was also suggested that such services might be intrusted to the Department of Docks in connection with its other work, and thus the commerce of the port be releved from any charge for the same. This suggestion was not adopted, but a law was passed allowing the Governor to appoint by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, a Captain of the Port and eleven Harbor Masters, and abolishing those offices as they previously existed. The Captain of the Port, under the new law, was to receive a salary of \$2,500, besides certain expenses, and the Harber Masters were to receive a salary of \$2,500 each, to be paid from the State Treasury.

It was claimed that the office of Harbor Master was necessary, and that the Department of Docks should not be invested with their duties. Though the argument in its favor did not appear conclusive, and though the nayment of the expenses of these officials by the State seemed very objectionable, the bill was approved because it seemed to be the only attainable method to relieve the State from complicity in the blackmailing and extortionate methods of the prevailing system.

An effort to execute this law failed through the refusal of the Senate to act upon the nominations made to the offices which were created. I am now entirely satisfied that the Department of Docks scena weil perform the duties heretofore devolved upon Harbor Masters without expense to the State, and with little, if any, additional cost to the city of New York.

It appears from waterments made to me that this service has been assumed by this department of the Senate to act upo HARBOR MASTERS.

additional cost to the city of New York.

It appears from statements made to me that this service has been assumed by this department and substantially performed under its direction, during the past season.

I recommend the repeat of the law remaining unexecuted being chapter 357 of the Laws of 1883, and all other laws by which the office of Harter Master was created or is in any manner recognized, and the transfer of the duties heretofore performed by flartor Masters to the Department of Docks.

Department of Docts.

PILOTAGE.

The fees allowed to pilots should undoubtedly be reduced. The law under which they are now collected was passed in 1835, and permitted a very large addition to previous rates on account of the great increase in living expenses. It was then distinctly understood that such increase should be allowed for only three years, and the law so provided. The operation of the statute has been extended from time to time until all limitation has dis-

appeared. Repeated efforts have been made to have the fees reduced by law, but they still remain a danger which cannot longer be concealed to the supremacy of the port and the prosperity of the State. Representations made to me by both the commercial interests affected and the pilots leave in my mind not a shadow of doubt that it is the duty of the Legislature, in the interests of the State, to regulate these fees so that they will cease to be, as now, higher than at other ports in this and foreign countries. The suggestion is made by the pilots that the extortion is mitigated because the high rates are paid by foreign instead of domestic shipowners. This idea is in direct antagonism to the considerations involved in the creation and maintenance of the commerce of a State, and betrays an entire misconception of the important interests with which the occumation of a pilot is related, and upon which its existence depends. When it is found that the number of pilots remain about the same as when the fees were enlarged; that the tonnage entering the port has increased immensely; that steamships have been largely substituted for sailing vessels, and consequently the services of the pilots are more quickly and easily performed; that the commerce of the port needs failed, and that the commerce of the port needs failed, and that the commerce of the port needs failed, and that the commerce of the port needs failed, and that the commerce of the port needs failed, and that the commerce of the port needs failed, and that the commerce of the port needs failed, and that the commerce of the port needs failed, and that the commerce of the port needs failed, and that the commerce of the port needs failed, and that the commerce of the port needs failed, and that the commerce of the port needs failed, and that the commerce of the port needs failed, and that the commerce of the port needs failed, and that the commerce of the port needs failed, and that the commerce of the port needs failed.

THE BAILBOAD COMMISSION.

THE BAILBOAD COMMISSION.

The law passed in 1882 creating a Board of Rairoad Commissioners was made operative during the last year, and the Board was organized on the 1st day of February, 1883.

Since that time they have done a vast amount of work of a character which demonstrates the need and usefulness of such a department, and with results which are creditable to the zeal, fidelity, and intelligence of the Commissioners.

The operations of the Board will not be here specifically detailed, more than to touch upon some facts deemed of general interest contained in the report of the Commissioners, which will soon be laid before the Legislature.

During the eight months between the organization of the Board and the 36th day of September, 1883, seventy-five complaints were preferred, all of which were fully investigated. Some of these involved a thorough examination into the financial affairs and history of large railroad corporations, while others had reference to the comfort and safety of passengers and citizens as related to the operations of the roads. Many recommendations have been made to the railroad companies calculated to protect the people in life and limb, most of which have been cheerfully adopted.

Of the 6,500 miles of railroad in the State, all have been inspected by some member of the Board, or by a competent engineer employed for that purpose. When defects have been discovered, the commany operating the road has been at once called on to remedy the same. The companies have generally evinced a design to cooperate in every effort to secure the same to cooperate in every effort to secure the same to cooperate in every effort to secure the same to cooperate in every effort to secure the same to economies have generally evinced a design to cooperate in every effort to secure the same to economies have generally evinced a design to cooperate in every effort to secure the same to economies have generally evinced a design to cooperate in every effort to secure the same to economies have generally evinced

1883: Killed,
Passengers 34
Employees 110
Other persons. 179 Totals 322

As a number of the persons who were neither passengers nor employees were killed or in-jured at crossings, an inquiry instituted by the Beard in relation to railroad crossings de-veloped the following facts:

veloped the following facts:

Number of public travelled highways and streets crossed at grade by railroads in the Mate.

Sumber of such crossings in cities and villages. 1,825 Number crossings where the view of approaching trains is obstructed from those traveling the highway when within 150 feet of the crossing on either ade. highway when within loo feet of increasing a cited and either aide.

Number of gates at highway crossings, including thirty-six on the Long Island Railroad.

Number of flagmen employed.

Number of persons killed or injured at crossings during the last five years.

Number within that time killed or injured at crossings protected by gates or flagmen.

The question of freight rates on railroads has been considered by the Board in connection with a bill referred to them by the last Senate involving that subject, and a report will as soon as possible be submitted which it is hoped will aid just and wise legislation regarding this question.

as possible be submitted which it is hoped will aid just and wise legislation regarding this question.

A number of laws and amendments to existing statutes will in due time be presented by the Board for the consideration of the Legislature. As these will be the result of intelligent reflection and inquiry, and will have relation to important interests, I trust they will receive carolul attention.

The action of the Board in requiring the filing of quarterly reports by the railroad companies exhibiting their financial condition, is a most important sten in advance, and should be abundantly sustained. It would, in my opinion, be a most valuable protection to the people if other large corporations were obliged to report to some department their transactions and financial condition.

The State creates these corporations upon the theory that some proper thing of benefit can be better done by them than by private enterprise, and that the aggregation of the funds of many individuals may be thus profitably employed. They are launched upon the public with the seal of the State, in some sense, upon them. They are permitted to represent the advantages they possess and the wealth sure to follow from admission to membership. In one hund is held a clearter from the State, and in the other is profered their stock.

It is a fact, singular though well established, that people will pay their money for stock in a corporation engaged in enterprises in which they would refuse to invest if in private hands, it is a grave question whether the formation of these artificial bodies ought not to be checked or better regulated and in some way supervised.

At any rate, they should always be kept well in pand, and the funds of its citizens should be

At any rate, they should always be kept well in hand, and the funds of its citizens should be At any rate, they should always be kept well in hand, and the funds of its citizens should be protected by the State which has invited their investment. While the stockholders are the owners of the corporate property, notoriously they are oftentimes completely in the power of the directors and managers, who acquire a majority of the stock, and by this means perpetuate their control, using the corporate property and franchises for their benefit and profit, regardless of the interests and rights of the minority of stockholders. Immense salaries are paid to officers; transactions are consummated by which the directors make money, while the rank and file among the stockholders loss it; the honest investor waits for dividends, and the directors grow rich. It is suspected, too, that large sums are spent under various disguises in efforts to influence legislation.

It is not consistent to claim that the citizen must protect himself, by refusing to purchase stock. The law constantly recognizes the tact that people should be defended from false representations, and from their own folly and cupidity. It punishes obtaining goods by false pretenses, gambling, and lotteries.

It is a hollow mockery to direct the owner of a small amount of stock in one of these institutions to the courts. Under existing s'atutes the law's delay, perplexity, and uncertainty leads but to despair.

The State should elither refuse to allow these

a small amount of stock in one of these institutions to the courts. Under existing statutes
the law's delay, perplexity, and uncertainty
leads but to despair.

The State should either refuse to allow these
corporations to exist under its authority and
patronage, or, acknowledging their paternity
and its responsibility, should provide a simple,
casy way for its people whose money is favested, and the public generally, to discover how
the funds of these institutions are spent, and
how their affairs are conducted. It should at
the same time provide a way by which the
squandering or misuse of corporate funds
would be made good to the parties injured
thereby.

This might well be accomplished by requiring corporations to frequently file reports
made out with the utmost detail, and which
would not allow lobby expenses to be hidden
under the pretext of legal services and counsel fees, accompanied by vouchers and sworn
to by the officers making them, showing particularly the debts, liabilities, expenditures,
and property of the corporation. Let this report be delivered to some appropriate department or officer, who shall sudit and examine
the same; provide that a false oath to such necount shall be perpury, and make the directors
liable to refund to the injured stockholders
any expenditure which shall be determined
improper by the auditing authority.

Such requirements might not be favorable to
stock speculation, but they would protect the
innocent investors; they might make the management of corporations more troublesome,
but this ought not to be considered when the
protection of the people is the matter in hand,
it would prevent corporate efforts to influence
legislation: the honestly conducted and strong
corporations would have nothing to be exposed.

The Civil Segivices.

corporations would have nothing to fear; the badly managed and weak ought to be exposed.

THE CIVIL SERVICE.

During the year the provisions of the act passed by the last Legislature to regulate and improve the civil service of the State have been put into operation. Fortunately a Commission was secured whose members were in hearty sympathy with the principles of the law, and who possessed much practical knowledge of the needs of the public service. The Commission itself was also fortunate in obtaining the services of Sinas W. Burt as chief examiner, whose experience in public affairs and familiarity with the best methods of reginating the civil service enabled him to render invaluable assistance to the Commission and the State. The preliminary classification and the framing of rules contemplated by the act governing the appointments to place having been completed and received my approval, the system will become operative in respect to all state officers and in all State institutions on the fourth day of the present month. This work, owing to the diversity of the State service, and the number and variety of positions affected by the law, has been a task attended with many difficulties. Although some sight revision may be necessary, on the whole I am confident the scheme will be found practical and effective, without being too rigorous or burdensome.

In addition the Commission has cooperated with the Mayors of cities who, under the law, have exclusive control of the municipal service, and in several cities, notably New York and Brooklyn, a thorough system of civil service has been prepared and promugated as nearly in harmony with the State system as

Continued on Fourth Page.

SHOT BY HIS FRIEND, Berthold Laube's Sudden Death while Cele. "I've just shot and killed my friend, Berthold Laute, in Mrs. Jahr's lager beer saloon n Johnson and Flushing avenues," said Jacob Schun, at 3 o'clock yesterday morning, in the Stagg street police station, Williamsburgh. Before the Sergeant recovered from his sur prise at the announcement Schun placed a revolver on the desk, adding:
"I thought I had discharged all the barrels "I thought I had discharged all the barrels. I had been firing to celebrate the New Year. There were several others with Laube and me. We went from his house to the saicon, where he asked me to show him the pistel to see if I had fired all the shots. I took the pistel from my pocket, and as I was about to hand it to him it caught in my vest and was discharged. He fell to the floor dead.

The police investigated the affair and found that the ball penetrated Laube's forehead. Witnesses corroborated Schun's story. Laube died instantly. He leaves a widow and children, Schun is also married, and lives with his family at 604 Johnson, avenue, a few doors from the house of Laube's family.

Hase Ball Notes.

Humphries, the catcher of last year's New York team, and who was reserved for next season, has been released by the nine.

Delegates representing Bob Ferguson's new Union Leacue will meet at Philadelphia to-morrow. An effort will be made to form an alliance between the new league and the Union Association.

A New York State League is to be organized soon. It will be remposed of clubs from cities outside of New York and Brooklyn. Littlej Miss Hamblin's Mishap. Annie Hamblin, 14 years old, while lighting a kerosege isony yesterday in her home, 272 West Forty-third street, set fire to her dress. Foliceman Graf found her lying in the hall with her clothing blazing. He re-ported the case and an ambulance was sent but the girl's perents declined to permit her to be removed to the hos-pital. She is badly hurt. The flames burned her back, legs, and elbows. Contents of The Weekly Sun.

THE WEEKLY SUN, published this morning

Organization of the New York Legislature—The Republican Speaker—The Governor's Message; The Adiron-dack Forests—How to Preserve Them—What the Legislative Committee will Propose; Forfeited Land Grants; The House's New Leader—Mr. Morrison's Handlwork in the Make-up of the Committees—Possibly a Candidate for the Presidency; Fresh Washington Gossip—The Gircal Field for Reform—A Check to Great Corporations; The American log; Report on the Navy Yards—The Commissioners do not Recommend the Sais of any of them; New York Controlling the Petroleum Trade; Goh. Buller Convicts Himself; Murderous Riotting at Harbor Grace—Romani athories and Orangemen by the Ears. Mysterious Murder at Hodeford, Mr. The Mississippi Leonest Ontonian in those and Orangemen by the Ears. Mysterious Murder at Hodeford, Mr. The Mississippi Leonest Ontonian Company. The Rathbone Transity Latest News from Europe—China wants Peace—King Goffee's Downfall; Jow Torine in Russi, Life in Modern Palestine; Praving on Holy Hill; Yankee Bardines; New Books, Aneddotes of the Civil War; Story. 'She Shoops to Conquer' Latest Telegraphic News; Sunbeams; Notes on Science and Industry; Laddes' Department; Many Colomos of Editorial Articles and Agricultural Matter; Financial Intelligence, and Markets.

The Wexkly Sus contains a complete epitome of the

Intelligence, and Markets.

The Werker, Son contains a complete epitome of the news of the week from all parts of the United States and the American continent. Copies in wrappers ready for mailing to the old country may be had at the desk of our publication office. Price four cents. For sale by all

Court Calendare This Day. SUPREME COURT—CHAMBERS.—Nos. 28, 119, 125, 126, 226, 329, 339, 349, 340, 347, 348, 331.
SURROGATE'S COURT.—Will of James Tilby, 11 A. M.

The Night After Christmas. Twas the night after Christmas: the boys were awake. After stuffing with turkey, and pudding and cake. After stuffing with turkey, and pudding and cake. After stuffing with turkey, and pudding and cake. There were meanings and greanings and piteous cries: "O my atomich!" O Moses!" "O help!" "I shall die!" "How I wish that I hath't had half as much pie!" "I om the!" "Gone, hurry!" O what shall I do!" "Bring semething to cure ms!" "Boo-hoo" and "Boo-hoo!"

hoo!"
And mother, alarmed by the racket and noise.
Han in to see what she could do for the boys.
Perry Davis's Fain Killer she brought for relief,
And soon made an end of tielr noise and their grief;
And then there was quiet and joy in the house.
And cach of the land was as still as a mouse.—4ds.

For All Bronchist or Lung Complaints se Olliffe's Tasteless Cod Liver Oil with Lime and Wild herry. Sold by druggists. Depot, 6 Bowery. -- 4de. Two experienced physicians of the Swift Specific Company, Atlanta, Ga., have located at 150 West 23d st., and will be pleased to see all who are afflicted with blood or skin discasses. Examination and consultation free.—After

Useful holiday presents. Scarfs, ties, handkernhiefs, mufflers, suspenders, wristlets, unitrelias, gloves, Cardigan Jackets, dress shirts. J. W. Johnston, 299 Grand st.—"ide.

A great discovery of more value than gold, Adamson's Botanic Cough Balsam. 10c. Druggists. - Adv. MARINE INTELLIGENCE.

BUNIATIRE ALMANACHTIS DAY.
Sun rises.... 7 25 | Sun sets.... 4 44 | Moon sets... 9 23
HIGH WATER-THIS DAY.
Sandy Hook 10 40 | Gov. Island 11 20 | Hell Gate... 1 10

Arrived-Tursday, Jan. 1.
Se Gellia, McMickan, Liverpool Dec. 22, and Queens tion 21d.

8. Rebecca, Bayford, Palermo Dec. 7.

8. Rebecca, Bayford, Palermo Dec. 18.

8. Richmond Hill, Hyde, London Dec. 18.

8. State of Texas, Risk, Fernandina.

8. Neptune, Barry, Hoston.

8. Suplatez Howes, McIntyre, San Francisco.

Bark Sulfana, Susher, Rotterdam.

Bark Ares Stevynson, Swanson, Natal.

MARRIED.

BRYANT-GAGE -On Monday, Dec. 31, by the Rev. A S. Kavanagh, James H. Bryant to Lizzle A., only daugh ter of the late Robert Gage, both of Brookivn.

BOD650N-STULL.-60 Monday, Dec. 31, by the Rev. P. H. Marling, John L. Dodgrson to Isaledle Stull, both of Chrimant. Othe. DODGSON-STULL.-On Monday, Dec. 34, by the Rev. P. H. Marting, John L. Dougson to Isabelle Smill, both of Cincinnati, Onlo.

JUHNSON-CARLIN.-On Wednesday, Dec. 26, at St. Michael's Ruman Catholic Church, corner of 4th avand 43d at. Brooklyn, Miss Kitte Carlin of Prooklyn to Mr. James V. Johnson of Kingston, N. Y. L. Lander, Johnson of Kingston, N. Y. L. Lander, J. Johnson of Kingston, N. Y. Lander, J. Johnson of Kingston, N. Y. Lander, J. Johnson of Kingston, N. Y. Lander, J. Johnson of Kingston, N. Charles M. Tyler, Walter Graig Kerr of Brooklyn, N. Y. Charles M. Tyler, Walter Graig Kerr of Brooklyn, N. Y. Lander, J. Johnson, J. H. Lien, J. J. Lander, J. Johnson, J. L. Lien, J. L. Lander, J. Lander, J. Johnson, J. L. Lien, J. L. Lien, J. L. Lander, J. L. Lillen, J. J. Lander, J. L. Lillen, J. L. Lillen, J. L. Lillen, J. L. Lander, J. Lander, J.

DIED

CARROLL—On Monday, Dec. 31, after a short illness at the residence of her mother, 537 Failton St., Brooklyn, Miss Mary A. Carroll, beloved daughter of William and Catharine Carroll.

Relatives and friends are respectfully invited to attend the funeral from the Church of Our Lady of Mercy, Delivevies place, on Thursday unring at 9 o'clock.

Interment in Calvary Cometery.

CLIMBINS.—Mollie, eidest daughter of James and Sarah Cammings, aged 8 years.

Funeral on Wednesday, the 20 inst., at 1:30 P. M., from the residence of her parents, 1430 st., between 10th and 10 UFFY.—The beloved wife of William Duffy, late of county Menachan, Ireland, in the 43d year of her age.

Relatives and friends respective. 30 invited to attend the funeral from her late residence, 30 invited to attend the funeral from bet late residence, 10 invited to attend the funeral from bet late residence, 10 invited to attend the late Act S. Gould.

Funeral services at his late residence, 14 West 16th attend the Act S. Gould.

Funeral services at his late residence, 14 West 16th attends and friends are respectfully invited to attend the late Act S. Gould.

Funeral services at his late residence, 14 West 16th attends to Westersday, Jan. 2, at 12 S. S. North Wast. Williams burgh. Annie M. Nelligan, daughter of Catherine and the late Luke Nelligan.

Relatives and friends are respectfully invited to attend the funeral from her late residence on Thursday, Jan. 3 at 10 A. M.; thence to the Church of the immediate Conception corner of Maujer and Leonard ats. where a selemn requiem mass will be celebrated for the repose of her soul. Interment in Calvary Centery.

PINCH MEY.—On Jan. 1, Capt. Thomas Pinchary, in the Sidn year of his as. SCULLY—At his residence, John McCarthy Scully, aged 47 years.
Funeral from 115 Brooms et., on Jan. 2, at 2 P. M. Reintives and friends are invited to attend YALE—At Bennington, Vt., on Sunday, Dec. 30. Gen. Edwin B. Yale, in the Sich year of his age.
Relatives and friends are invited to attend the funeral services on Wednesday morning, Jan. 2, at 19 o'clock, at the Madison Avenue Bantiet (harch, corner Madison av. and 31st et. Kindly omit flowers.

Special Notices. WE DEAL ONLY IN STRAIGHT SOUR MASH KENTUCKY WHISKEYS, from the celebrated Old Crow and Hermitage distilleries, and guarantee everything we sell to be strictly pure and unadulterated.

IL B. KIRK & CO., 60 Fulton st. and Broadway and 27th st.

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